

Bill by the Lords. A fortnight later, during the riotous weeks that followed the prorogation, he writes to Austen somewhat in the spirit of an old Tory: 'The times are damnable. I take the gloomiest view of affairs, but we must not lose our property without a struggle.' •* In the event of a new election,' he adds, '<I offer myself for Wycombe.' No new election, however, came at present, and he spent the greater part of the winter at Bradenham 'working like a tiger,' no doubt at *Contarini*. By the middle of February he is in London, 'most comfortably located in Duke Street,' and enjoying his first real taste of the pleasures of London society. Through his friend Bulwer, already at the height of his fame, Disraeli at once found his way into the charmed circle of Mayfair, and in his letters to his sister he has left us a graphic and vivacious record of his adventures in this paradise.

To Sarah Disraeli.

Feb. 18, 1832.

We had a very brilliant *reunion* at Bulwer's last night. Among the notables were Lords Strangford¹ and Mulgrave,² with the latter of whom I had a great deal of conversation; Count D'Orsay, the famous Parisian dandy; there was a large sprinkling of blues — Lady Morgan, Mrs. Norton, L.E.L., &c. Bulwer canae up to me, said 'There is one blue who insists upon an introduction.' 'Oh, my dear fellow, I cannot really; the power of repartee has deserted me.' 'I have pledged myself, you must come'; so he led me up to a very sumptuous personage, looking like a fullblown rose, Mrs. Gore. Albany! Fonblanque,³ my critic, was in the room, but I did not see him. . . . The Mr. Hawkins who made a wonderful speech, and who, although he squinted horribly, was the next day voted a Cupidon, and has since lost his beauty by a failure, and many others, whom in this hurry I cannot recall — Charles

¹6th Viscount (1780-1865): A diplomatist of some distinction who had been for many years Minister at Lisbon, and afterwards for some years Ambassador at Constantinople.

² Afterwards 1st Marquis of Normandy.

³ Editor of the *Examiner*.